(a) whether it is a fact that terror attack at Mecca Masjid, Hyderabad and Ajmer Sharief were triggered by mobile phones;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in both the cases, fake address and identity proofs were given by the subscribers;

(c) whether fault in verification system while acquiring mobile phones is leading to many crimes and incidents in the country; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to plug the loophole so as to ensure availability of the mobile phone to the genuine user?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Access Service Licences envisage that the licensee shall ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as a subscriber, instructions issued by the licensor in this regard from time to time shall be scrupulously followed. Keeping in view the importance of national security, the instructions regarding proper verification of the customer before providing a new SIM/mobile phone to the subscriber were reiterated and meetings are being held with all the Telecom Service Providers from time to time.

Renting of SIM cards

442. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) whether Government have come across incidents of renting of SIM cards of various mobile companies by tour operators to domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such an act by these operators is not increasing the security threat in the country; and

(d) how many such cases have come to notice and the action taken by Government against the mobile companies and plug the loophole in the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No instance of renting of SIM cards of various mobile companies by tour operators has come to notice. As and when, any such instances come to notice of the Department, suitable action will be taken.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of (a).

Franchising of services of Post Office

443. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased state:

(a) whether Department of Posts has decided to franchise its services to private players in places where there has been a long pending demand for a post office;